

THE

Most true and wonderfull Relation
of a STARRE of a great Magnitude, and
casting forth a flame as big as any Bushell, that
was seene at *Haulin* a Town not farre from the
City of *Glocester*, from *Thursday, December*
the 2. to *Saturday, December* the 4.th.

TOGETHER

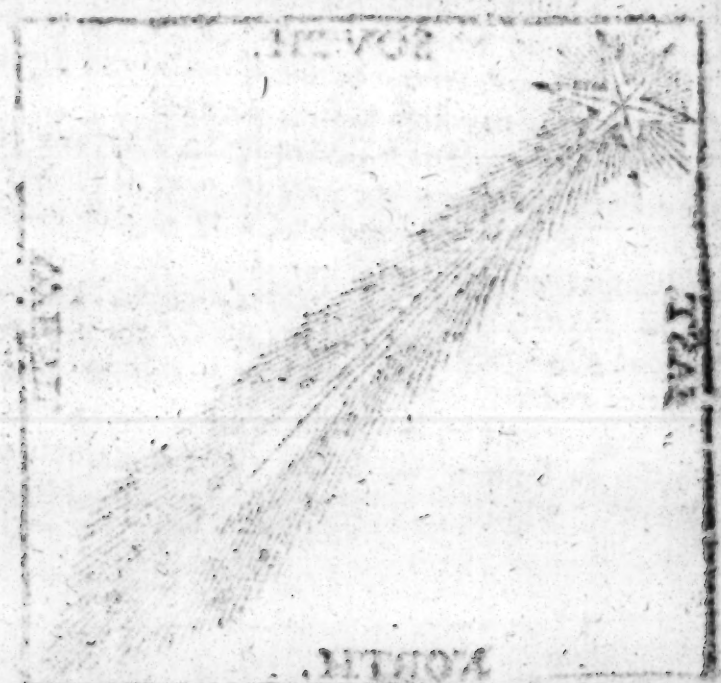
with many other dreadfull Apparitions, in
which it did present it Self, as sometimes casting
forth coales of Fire, sometimes shooting forth
his Blazing and Threatning trayne to the
terror of the beholders.

Also, the Relation of many prodigious little Stars
that all the while did Skip about it, sometimes running
from it, and sometimes flying to it.

It was attested by many Inhabitants of the said Towne that
they beheld it, and by a Letter from a Gentleman of quality
sent to his Sister in *London*.



THE
wonderful R. B. ...
and ...
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...
...

[illegible]

Not on record. See also 1891-1892.

THE

Most strange and dreadfull Apparition, of a great *STARRE* in severall wonderfull Formes, at *Halling* neere unto the Ciry of *Glocester*.



* * *

Esore I proceed to give you an account of the many admirable formes in which this Prodigious Comet, for many nights together, hath been scene from *Thurs- day December the second*, untill *Monday day December the sixth*, and which may yet continue its dreadfull Apparition

(for on that day the Letter sent from thence by a good Hand doth beare its date) it will not bee amisse to represent unto you that at the same Towne of *Halling* a little before the Warres began their Rained showers of Blood from the Clouds, as it is not onely witnessed by some Books at that time published by Authority, but is still to bee attested by many hundred Witnesses that were spectators of it, the drops of Blood which fell on the Grasse and Herbes in the fields, and Gardens, and on the leaves of the Trees, remaining unto this day fresh in their memories.

It is the observation of a Learned man, that some places by the divine Providence are more appropriate for Miracles then others, not that the hand of GOD is confined to any place, but that hee is pleased there more particularly to exercise his Power, and to manifest eyther his Indignation or his good pleasure to the Sons of men; of this the Histories both Sacred and prophane can furnish us with abundant examples, had wee the leisure to prosecute so large a Theme.

Comets, or Exhalations in the ayre (commonly called

Blazing Starres) as they proceed for the most part from matter, so they appeare in diuers Formes ; sometimes it shoots forth its threatening Trayn like a bush of Haire on fire, and thus it appeared in the yeare One thousand six hundred and eighteen ; and this *Blazing Starre* was justly accounted one of the greatest Wonders that was scene in that nature by reason of the Greatness of the proportion, and the height of the Scituation of it. Of this Starre many great Schollers have written large Treatises, and above all the most learned *Tycho Brahe* ; I shall onely give you one short passage thereupon, which if I bee not mistaken, is well worthy your observation.

King JAMES being all that *November* at *Newmarket*, and delighting himself with the recreations of Hawking and Hunting, and all the Court in the height of mirth, newes was brought him of this Dreadfull sight, and summons from Heaven ; for although Thunder doth chide us all in generall, yet a Comet or Blazing-Starre, doth speake more peculiarly unto Kings and Princes. The King being startled at the sight, did send presently from *Newmarket* unto *Cambridge*, to the best Mathematicians in that University to bring in their Observations on it, these were —

Doctor *Cumber*. Doctor *Mansell*,
 Doctor *Maw*. Doctor *Bambridge*,
 Doctor *Collins*. and others.

They having deliberated on it, and conferred their Notes together, and being cyther unable to satisfie the Kings demand, or unwilling to offend him with their determinations thereupon ; did returne their Answer to him by Doctor *Cumber*, who was the Spokes-man for them all, that it was a taske beyond their abilities to satisfie the Commands of the King, that the King himselve was the greatest Scholler of that Age ; and therefore no man more fit to Interpret what GOD thereby designed then Himself. King James having made a little pause thereon, did speake unto them in these expresse words ; why looke you Men ? The body of this great Starre is over *Germany* and it denounceth much Warre

Warre and desolation to come on that Nation, but the
 tayle of the Starre is over *England, Scotland, and Ireland*;
 Now the Sting (said He) and that word hee spake twice
 together, Is in the Tayle, and it fore-telleth, that the greatest
 Smart of it, and the sharpest Execution of all shall befall on
 Me, or my Children. How true this Presage hath been in
 the event, I leave it unto you to consider of it with your
 selves.

Sometimes a Comet appears in the forme of a Lance set
 on fire, sometimes of a great Beame set on fire, and with
 great terrour flyeth through the ayre. Sometimes it represen-
 teth a naked Sword, and sometimes a flying Deagon, accor-
 ding to the disposition of the exhalations, as they are more
 thin or thick, and more or lesse capable of being inflamed.

The Philosophers number severall sorts of their Starres, or
 Meteors, and as they are more light and cleere, or more dark
 and heavie they give severall Names unto them, or as they
 are higher, or lower in the upper Region of the ayre, or ac-
 cording to the complexion, or as they are more swift, or
 more slow in their motions.

But that Apparition which is of greatest consequence, and
 presageth (as they affirm) innovations in the Courts of the
 Potentates of the Earth, is the Comet which they call the
Blazing-Starre, which they observe to bee alwaies fatall
 unto one Prince or other, as his Kingdomes or territories are
 more neere unto the situation of it.

Neither is this only observed in the Starres, but the Sea also
 hath afforded oftentimes some presages of the change of Go-
 vernours: And as in the ayre the apparitions are of the pul-
 crest bodies and most like unto Starres and indeed so like that
 they receive their denomination from them; so the Sea also
 sendeth forth her Presages by the mightiest and most imperi-
 ous Creature that it hath. Wee shall find on the beginning
 of the troubles of this Nation a little before the Death of the
 King of *France* (Father to the King now living) that *Cleme-
 ris* in his History of the World, maketh mention of a great
 Whale that comming up with tyde in the Country of *Pro-*

vence was there left upon the Strand, the Element of the waters forsaking her, and betraying this monitrous Prophet to the Element of the Earth. When she found shee had ventured so farre, that it was impossible for her to returne againe unto the Dropes, the Roare shee made was terrible; It is affirmed by the Historian, that the Inhabitants were Nine dayes in destroying of her perpetually shooting against her with their Guns, as if they had shot against a Cattle; This Whale was said to bee Three hundred and twenty foot in length, and One hundred and sixty foot in breadth. The coming up of such a Monster unto Land did presage some novelty in the State, saith the Historian, which accordingly came to passe; for not long afterwards not only the Death of the King followed, but of many great Personages of Nobility both male and female of that Nation, and the Peace of *France* much troubled by the claimes, and discontents of the Prince of *Conde*, and some other Grandees of that Kingdome.

But to returne from whence I have digressed, there have been Apparitions in the ayre, not onely in the forme of Stars, but sometimes also in the shapes of Men, and of Coaches drawne by Horses. In *Germany*, about eleven yeares since there was scene the forme of a Man in the ayre, sitting in the Clouds, and cloathed all in white, upon his brow were the rayes of Divinity. Those that did behold it, did convertise into their hearts the preparations for Repentance and amendment of Life, believing they had scene some signe, whereby they might justly suggest unto themselves, that the Resurrection was at hand. *Luther* affirmeth, that the same was beheld in his dayes, and if you will beleeve the *Germans*, this admonishing Spectacle hath been very frequent in that Country.

But of this which I come now to relate unto you, is so rare that I know not whither any History or Age can parallel it; It exceedeth the bounds of common apprehension, and even the capacity of Philosophy it selfe; for that which Philosophy ascribeth distinctly to severall apparitions, is here

heere to be beheld all in one; Here you may see the *blinking Starre*, the *burning Beams*, the *flaming Sword*, the *flying Lances*, the *skipping Goat*, the *Dragon*, and the *Sparkling coales*, and whatsoever Names that the Philosophers have given to severall Apparitions to be contracted here into one, nor need we to be afraid of it; for although such apparitions are for the most part laden with sad events, yet we see again that sometimes they have been the fore-runners of much Happiness to come.

And thus appeared the Starre of the Sun of Righteousnes. It was the Declaration of the Wise men that they had seene his Starre in the East, and if the tradition of the Church be of any Authority, it was at this time of the year, that by the conduct of his Starre they came to worship him. How much saving his pinces did this Starre presage unto Mortality? How did it raise us from Hell to Heaven? How from being Children of darkness did it advance us to be of the same fraternity with the Lord of Glory?

If you please to look a little backward upon the accounts of Time, you shall find a Starre to appeare on the Death of *Julius Caesar*, which did auspicate as much Peace, as glory to his successor *Augustus Caesar*. *Et si verum fatemur* (saith *Pliny*) *salutare idcirco fuit*. This Starre differed from the apparitions of other Starres in the like nature; for if we confesse the Truth (saith hee) it dispensed a healthfull and a happy Influence upon the Nations of the Earth.

Upon the apparition of that Starre the Iron gates of War were shut up in Rome, and who knowes but that upon the appearance of this Star, the Nations may now enjoy a happy Peace, and own their felicity to the Government of his Highness now Lord Protector, whose Enemies whiles they doe feare his Power they doe magnifie his Clemency, and submitting unto both, may acknowledge and rejoyce in that auspicious Motto under his owne and his renowned Fathers most victorious Armes, which is, — *Pax bello quaritur*.
Peace is obtained by Warre.

On *Thursday* the second of *December*, about Eleven of the clock at night, there appeared at *Haulin* (a Towne not farre from the City of *Glocester*) a Starre of a great magnitude, which although the ayre was darke made it selfe conspicuous by its great splendor, as if the ayre received all its serenes from its illustrious Influence. This Starre was seene from *Thursday*, *December* the 2. unto *Saturday* *December* the 4. th every night about Ten or eleven of the clock. The body (as I have said) was of a great magnitude but of what height was its Scituation is very uncertaine, for as yet (as farre as I can learne) the Height of it hath not been taken by the staffe of any Astronomer, although it hath served for discourse unto many of them, and hath been the great wonder of all the Country thereabouts. This Starre doth appeare in divers Forms, as sometimes round with a haire about the circumference of it, and waving, and pointed like the haire of the Sun; sometimes it will appeare in a square forme like a great plinke or a Table all in a flame, sometimes it will contraine it selfe into the similitude of a Square, or Lance in a fire, and sometimes it will have the appearance of a flaming Sword, you shall then see it againe in an Ovall forme, and casting forth a round flame as big as a Bushell; It will also spit forth many Coales to the appearance of the beholders, and red as the hottest fire; sometimes it will shoot forth it selfe into a great length, and run along the Sky. Sometimes again it will appeare to be Forked, and sometimes to carry a great Blazing mayne at the tayle thereof. Sometimes to the sight of the beholders it will hang towards the Earth, as if it threatned to fall downe upon it. It is observable that round about this great Starre many little Starres, which like the *Corymbus* *saturnus*, doe move about, and to receive all their light, and their motion from it.

This Strange Sight hath wonderfully affected the beholders who with as much modesty as devotion, doe reflect upon themselves, and leave the Events thereof unto GOD, unto whom alone is known the wonders in the depths of the Sea, and in the height of the Heavens.

The End.